

PRENTIS CHAMPLAIN.

[To accompany Bill H. R. No. 655.]

APRIL 13, 1860.

Mr. FENTON, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, made the following

**R E P O R T .**

*The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Prentis Champlain, report :*

That they have examined the proofs in the case, from which it appears that the petitioner enlisted as a volunteer private in the company commanded by George Weaver, in the regiment commanded by Colonel Brough, Ohio volunteers, fourth regiment, in the war with Mexico ; that he enlisted on the first Monday in April, 1847, and served till the 15th day of July, 1848, when he was honorably discharged ; that while in said service of the United States, in the line of his duty, in August, 1847, at Matamoras, in Mexico, he was attacked with diarrhœa, from which he partially recovered, and that afterwards, on or about the 10th day of September, 1847, while on the March from Vera Cruz to Puebla, and while in said service, and in the line of his duty, for fourteen successive nights he was exposed, without cover or shelter of any kind, and without a sufficient allowance of wholesome food, to constant rains ; that in consequence of such exposure, sometime in September he was again seized with dysentery or diarrhœa, which became chronic ; that not being totally disabled, he was not discharged, but detached on lighter service, and on horseback, in which service he continued till the close of the war ; that said chronic diarrhœa has continued ever since. It appears that in consequence of such exposure he was also seized with rheumatism, which, not being very severe at first, though always painful, did not prevent his continuing in service, but has become also chronic ; and that in consequence of said diseases combined, caused by such exposure, he has been, ever since his discharge, unable to pursue his occupation, which was that of farmer. He has resided and now resides in the county of Loraine, State of Ohio. The fact of his disability, of his laboring under chronic diarrhœa and chronic rheumatism, that he is wholly disabled, is certified to by Charles D. Townshend and S. G. Wilmot, physicians in good standing in said county of Loraine. They also certify that they knew him before and after his services in Mexico ; that he was a hearty, robust

man before, and that since he has been totally disabled, as before stated. The certificates, also, of two reputable witnesses are produced, who swear that the petitioner is a man of good moral character, and that his diseases were not produced by any excesses of his own. The facts in relation to his disease and exposure in Mexico are fully sustained by the affidavit of Captain George W. Weaver, who states that during all those fourteen days and nights the troops were supplied only with bacon full of worms, and muddy water. The character of Captain Weaver for truth and veracity is fully confirmed by the certificate of Hon. John Sherman, representative from the thirteenth congressional district of Ohio, who states that he is well acquainted with him, and that "he is entitled to full credit." The application of petitioner for pension was rejected by the Commissioner on the ground "that the surgeon of the regiment finds no entry of any attendance upon him when first attacked with rheumatism." The petitioner swears that this disease came on gradually, and before he called medical aid he had been transferred to a company of horse artillery in another regiment, and was attended by the physician of an Illinois regiment. Your committee concur in reporting a bill granting him a pension.